

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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25X1A 2. Kolkhozy in the USSR

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Medical Installations in Austria and Kiev Oblast1.

- a. A large Soviet military hospital was located at Moedling (N 48-06, E 16-18), Austria.
- b. There was a Soviet military hospital in Vienna, Austria.
- c. Zvenigorodka (N 49-05, E 30-58) in Kiev Oblast had a hospital which consisted of three of four buildings, one of which was a two-story building for tubercular patients. This hospital was said to be well equipped to handle practically every type of illness.
- d. Katerinopol (N 48-57, E 30-56) in Kiev Oblast had a small, one-story hospital. This hospital was not too well equipped, lacking an X-ray machine; surgery was performed here, but nothing very complicated.

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- e. The only polyclinic known to me was located in Katerinopol. It was housed in a small building, contained no beds, had very little equipment, and was staffed by about ten doctors and a number of feldshera.
- f. I have no information on clinics, ambulatoriums, medical stations, or medical supply warehouses.

Medical Care

2. Medical care, including consultations, prescriptions, and surgery, was provided free to all citizens of the USSR. Medicines had to be purchased by the individual with his own money: the prices were nominal, however. Soldiers in the Soviet Army were treated by army medical officers and, if necessary, were confined in army hospitals, not civilian ones. Although medical care was free, in my area many people preferred to visit a doctor in his home for consultations, usually on Sunday or in the evening; for this service they paid the doctor with money or food products. Most persons felt that a doctor would give better and more conscientious attention to a patient who payed than to one who came to the hospital for free treatment. [redacted]

[redacted] Surgery or any illness requiring hospitalization had to be referred to a hospital or polyclinic, because a doctor did not have the facilities at home to handle such cases. Those who could afford to do so would often pay the attending doctor in the hospital to insure proper care. This practice was apparently widespread [redacted] and, as far as I know, nothing was ever done about it. Soldiers seemed to me to receive better medical care than civilians did, principally because it behooves the army to maintain the health of its soldiers; civilian care was haphazard, unless the attending doctor was paid.

3. [redacted]

4. [redacted] occasionally of a VD case among soldiers in other units in Austria. The few soldiers having a venereal disease of which I heard always reported their cases to the medical department. I never heard of a soldier's attempting to see a private doctor; I think this was unnecessary, because there was no penalty for contracting a venereal disease.

Sanitation at Zvenigorodka and Uman

4. Zvenigorodka had a water supply system which serviced the public buildings and most of the homes by piping the water directly into the homes and buildings; I have no details on the means of water purification, if any, or the location or source of the water supply. The homes on the outskirts of the city used well water; the wells were scattered among the houses on the outskirts, but I cannot remember whether each home had its own well or one well served several houses. The only other town [redacted] on the water supply, is Uman (N 48-45, E 30-15), where the situation was exactly the same as at Zvenigorodka. I can furnish no information on waste disposal for either of these cities.

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KOLKHOZY

- 25X1A 5. The approximate amounts of work done by machines, horses, and hand were as follows: plowing, 70% by machines and 30% by animals; sowing, 50% by animals, 30% by machines, and 20% by hand; harvesting, 50% by hand and 50% by machines and animals. (other information on the MTS and kolkhozy is given in [redacted])

- 25X1X 6. The dwellings [redacted] in neighboring villages had no water supply systems. Practically every household had its own well; occasionally several households shared one well. I know of no house which had an inside pump. Most of the peasant houses were made of wooden logs which had been covered with clay and whitewashed. Houses were of various sizes and shapes but were usually one story and measured five to seven meters by four to six meters. The houses had dirt floors and usually had three or four rooms which were partially partitioned; the rooms consisted of a kitchen with a wood-burning stove, one or two rooms containing beds, and a storage room where some of the kolkhozniki kept their animals or fowl during severe weather. Some of the houses had a kind of lean-to built onto them to shelter firewood. The furniture invariably consisted of crude chairs or benches, a table, and beds. Each house had two to four windows. The houses had no toilets. Lighting was provided by kerosene lamps.

7. The average kolkhoznik had a very plain, simple diet which rarely included butter, eggs, or meat. For breakfast he usually had either potato soup with cabbage or fried potatoes, plus bread or tea. Lunch consisted of borshch with an occasional piece of meat, bread, and gruel, with milk if it were available. The usual dinner was soup with cabbage, bread, and tea.

8. Practically all the kolkhozniki lived in the kolkhoz settlement; now and then one might live a kilometer or two away from the settlement. Some of the farm buildings are occasionally located one or two kilometers away from the main cluster of kolkhoz buildings. (Other information on the subject is given in [redacted])

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9. In addition to the information on kolkhoz living standards given in [redacted] the following is given as supplementary data:

- a. Housing conditions on the kolkhozy seemed to be no better than those prior to the Revolution as they were described by the older inhabitants. No new dwellings have been constructed since the end of the war, and I never heard rumors about any planned construction.
- b. Since kolkhozniki received no money from the kolkhoz for their work, they were compelled to sell some of the produce of their private plots of land in order to obtain cash. Their purchasing power was almost negligible, and they often had to resort to barter in order to obtain such goods as cloth, needles, and thread. They sold their own produce or bartered some of their meager belongings at the local bazaar. In order to add to the total number of workdays earned by the family, many children had to work in the fields before they had completed four or five years of schooling.

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c. Practically all the kolkhozniki and their families dressed in makeshift clothing or rags. Most of the clothing was made by local seamstresses; the cloth was obtained either by barter or by selling produce. The kolkhoz chairman was the only person on the kolkhoz who owned a suit. Footwear also was makeshift, often consisting of rags wrapped around the feet. Some of the kolkhozniki were able to make boots from leather obtained from their own livestock (obtained from calves, since pigskin had to be turned over to the government). [redacted] contain information on morale on the kolkhozy.)

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d. [redacted]

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10. The people of my kolkhoz were rather indifferent to the subject of the Soviet Army. Most of them were proud of its performance in World War II, but no longer talked much about it by [redacted] 1949. Conscription into the army was regarded as just another aspect of life; it was understood that young people would have to serve their tour of duty. The MVD and MGB were not discussed such by the kolkhozniki; I do not recall any mention or discussion of them. (In fact, [redacted] was not too certain of the meaning of MVD and MGB.)

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General Information

11. The school [redacted] taught courses in Ukrainian only through the first four classes; the Russian language was also taught and became the only language of instruction after the fifth grade. In the villages, Ukrainian was spoken much more than Russian, and young people therefore speak better Ukrainian than Russian. I believe that people in large cities in the Ukrainian SSR probably speak better Russian than Ukrainian. I am surprised to hear that the Ukraine was being Russianized; neither I nor anyone I knew thought that the Ukraine was being Russianized, and therefore we could not feel resentment. (Morale is discussed in [redacted] and religious attitudes in [redacted])

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